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THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section
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NORRIS, SMITH SCORE TWICE; HINKEL 2 SINGLES

Montville 11s Top Westfield In N. Providence League, 9-6

By DAVID B. CORBIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Montville pitchers Nikolas Santos, Michael DeDonato and Greg Nieskens bent a little but came through with key strikeouts at the right time to hold back the Westfield 11-year-old baseball team, 9-6, in New Providence Green League action at Gumbert 3 Field in Westfield on July 21.

Santos started the game and allowed three runs on two hits and three walks, while recording three strikeouts in two innings. DeDonato pitched the next three innings and yielded just one run on one hit, while walking three and striking out three. Nieskens relieved in the sixth, yielded two runs on two hits, while walking one, hitting a batter and striking out two.

"Our pitchers have been good all year. Nicky Santos started the game for us and did a great job. Michael came in and threw the ball really well. Really at this age, you just want them to throw strikes. They pitched strikes. We made some plays, and things worked out well," Montville Head Coach Chuck Leitgeb said.

Westfield used four pitchers, and Westfield Head Coach Jeff Gerris' primary aim for them was control. Noah Levy pitched the first inning. Tommy Norris pitched the next two innings. Sandy Miller pitched the fourth and fifth innings, and Jeffrey Bennett pitched the sixth inning, retiring all three batters whom he faced.

"We had Levy, Miller, Norris and we closed with Bennett, who held them. You find one kid who is pitching strikes, pitching solid, he's the

kid you want," Coach Gerris said.

The Mustangs received several solid defensive plays throughout the game, especially from third baseman Blake Hunsinger, shortstop Ben Torres and second baseman Aaron Warsaw.

"I always tell the kids pitching and defense wins games. You can hit the ball, but if you can't pitch and play defense, you are not going to win games. I think that's what happened today. We pitched well. We made some plays in the field, and we were able to win," Coach Leitgeb said.

The Little Blue Devils struggled finding the open spots for hits and had only three singles until the sixth inning when they added respective RBI doubles from Emmitt Smith (2 runs scored, walk, stolen base) and

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BEATING OUT THE THROW...Livingston's Anthony Petrillo, left, beats out an infield single as Westfield Blue first baseman Dean Pucciarelli makes the catch at Gumbert 1 Field in Westfield on July 19.

CERRIA, NORRIS SCORE IN SEVENTH, HOFFMAN 2 HITS

WF Blue 12s Score Two in 7th, Edge Livingston Lancers, 5-4

By DAVID B. CORBIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Jack Cerria doubled and scored on Danny Bracco's grounder, and Robert Norris singled and, later, alertly scored on a bizarre throwing error in the bottom of the seventh inning to give the first-placed, 8-2-1 Westfield Blue a 5-4 victory over Livingston in New Providence Green League action at Gumbert 1 Field in Westfield on July 19.

Cerria, who dropped his leadoff double into leftfield, remained on second after a groundout to short,

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then advanced to third on Norris' single to left. When the throw from the outfield went to third, Norris dashed to second. Bracco tapped a grounder to short and Curria headed home, drawing a throw, which allowed Norris to advance to third. After a pitch to the next batter, the Livingston catcher threw the ball back to the pitcher, but it sailed over his head and Norris sprinted to the plate for the winner.

The Lancers entered the game minus a few of its key players but played a composed game on defense and received fine pitching performances from starter Kyle Ferguson and reliever Matt Feresten.

"We played with a lot of heart today. We were missing a few of our better players. It was a shame that we had to lose it the way we did, but our guys played together," Livingston Head Coach Paul Ghamar said.

Ferguson tossed four innings and yielded three runs on four hits and only one walk, while striking out two. Feresten tossed the next three and allowed two runs and two hits, while walking one and fanning none.

"There weren't that many hits. The pitchers did well. They had six pitchers. We had two of our better pitchers, who have been consistent all year. Our biggest concern was we left a lot of guys on base, which could have led to a few more runs," Coach

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OUT AT THE PLATE...Westfield 11s catcher Emmitt Smith, right, makes the tag in time to nail Montville's Nikolas Santos at home plate in the fourth inning at Gumbert 3 Field on July 21.

D. Blair Corbin's

Blue Devils Raiders

Walk Down Memory Lane



From the archives of The Westfield Leader and The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times - www.goleader.com
July 25, 1998: The First Annual John Fiorino Memorial Baseball Tour-

namment began its first day with several exciting games among the seven competing teams. In one of the games, the Westfield Blue team came from behind then held on to defeat a highly

competitive team from Scotch Plains. Dave Hennessey, Mike Bialick and Tom Kent provided key hits, which allowed the Blue to take the lead with four runs in the top of the sixth inning.

July 26, 1998: Westfield Men's Softball League playoff time has arrived and the intensity and quality of play was turned up a notch at Tamaques Park. Clint Factor blasted a two-run homer, which inspired his second-seeded Mattress Factory teammates to score eight runs in the sixth inning and come from behind to defeat third-seeded Checchio Chiropactic, 10-4, in the first game of the best-of-five series. Mattress man Ron Shovlin had three singles and

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KEY PLAY AT HOME BASE...Sun Tavern catcher Joe Nicastro puts the tag on Vicki's Diner slugger Matt Hoynowski, No. 6, in the second inning at Brookside Park in Scotch Plains on July 23.

HOYNOWSKI RAPS 3B, 2B, 3 RBI; HUEVO 2B, 1B, 2 RBI

Vicki's Scorches Sun Tavern In B Division Playoffs, 6-5

By DAVID B. CORBIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Third-seeded Vicki's Diner hosted sixth-seeded Sun Tavern in the battle of the feeding establishments in the first round of the Scotch Plains Men's Softball League Monday Night Division playoffs at Brookside Park in Scotch Plains on July 23.

The question was would Sun Tavern, the cellar dwellers of the division, shine on the diamond or would Vicki's emerge victorious?

Well! The Sun Tavern showed glimmers of hope, but in the end, Vicki's Diner managed to nibble on a 6-5

victory and to advance to the semifinal round to face last year's division champs, the second-seeded guys from Five Guys.

The outcome of the game probably came down to Vicki's ability to cook up several fine defensive plays, beginning with leftfielder Mookie Christopher's brilliant snag in the top of the first inning. Third baseman John Rentoulis made a number of impressive plays, beginning with a third-to-first double play in the second inning. Right fielder Tommy Carannace hauled in a difficult fly ball in the fifth inning, and

centerfielder John Gordon made a tricky grab in the ninth inning.

Sun Tavern's brightest defensive maneuver came in the sixth inning when shortstop Kenny Kimble dove for a grounder in the hole and fired to first base for the out. Curtis Lewis followed with a flash of glory with a knee-sliding snare in leftfield.

The Sun Tavern men out-hit Vicki's, 18-14, but the Diner men served up two doubles and a triple, which accounted for five of their runs, and team captain Matt Hoynowski delivered the largest portion with a two-

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WELCOME RECEPTION AT HOME...Westfield White teammates eagerly await Ethan Prevornak to step on home plate after blasting a solo home run in the fourth inning in the 12-7 win over the Westfield Blue 12s at Gumbert Field in Westfield on July 22, 2010.

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